

VZCZCXYZ0003
PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHAC #0404 1102109
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 202109Z APR 06
FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0000
INFO RUCNMR/MERCOSUR COLLECTIVE
RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 0506
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 0300
RUEHMD/AMEMBASSY MADRID 0123
RUEHZP/AMEMBASSY PANAMA 0091
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO 0221
RUEHSG/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO 2598
RUEHNR/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI 0201
RUEHUB/USINT HAVANA 0150
RUMIAAA/USCINCSO MIAMI FL//SCJ3/SCJ33/SCJ34/SOCSO LNO//
RHEHNSC/WHITE HOUSE NSC WASHDC
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC
RUCNFB/FBI WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 000404

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

STATE FOR DS/IP/WHA AND DS/DSS/ITA
STATE PASS TO USAID LAC/AA
POSTS FOR RSO
SOUTHCOM FOR POLAD BARARA MOORE
NSC FOR SUE CRONIN
JOINT STAFF FOR J5 LTC SCOTT DAVIS
NAIROBI FOR MICHAEL FITZPATRICK

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/20/2016

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [PINR](#) [PA](#)

SUBJECT: PARAGUAY: LEFTIST PATRIA LIBRE SUSPECTED IN
ASSAULT OF POLICE STATION

REF: A. ASUNCION 325 AND PRECEDING
[1](#)B. ASUNCION 210 AND PRECEDING
[1](#)C. 05 ASUNCION 1325 AND PRECEDING
[1](#)D. 05 ASUNCION 1119 AND PRECEDING
[1](#)E. 05 ASUNCION 1101

Classified By: PolOff Mark A. Stamilio, reasons 1.4(b),(c) and (d).

[1](#)1. (U) Summary: On April 18, a group of 12 heavily armed men and women assaulted a police station in the Department of Concepcion, critically wounding a policeman posted there and burning the police station to the ground. A second policeman identified one of the assailants as the brother of a member of the leftist Free Fatherland Party (Partido Patria Libre, or PPL). Authorities in the area arrested three suspects, one of whom is a member of the PPL-affiliated Campesino Organization of the North (OCN). End Summary.

[1](#)2. (U) At approximately 10:30 PM on April 18, a group of approximately ten men and two women assaulted a small police station in the remote hamlet of Colonia Jorge Sebastian Miranda (a.k.a. Huguana Nandu), in the Department of Concepcion, approximately 250 miles north of Asuncion. The group was dressed in camouflage fatigues and body armor. They were armed with high caliber rifles and detonated a hand grenade during the assault. One of two policemen manning the police station at the time of the assault was shot three times in the chest. He was flown to Asuncion for surgery, and remains in critical condition. The assailants burned the police station to the ground. They also burned two police motorcycles parked in front of the police station.

[1](#)3. (U) A second policeman manning the police station at the time of the assault identified one of the assailants as Osvaldo Villalba, brother of Carmen Villalba, a PPL militant

incarcerated for her role in the 2001 kidnapping of Maria Edith Bordon de Debernardi (ref D). According to press reports, the second policeman overheard one of the assailants tell his wounded partner, "Tell the press that we are well prepared for this battle, that we are not amateurs, and that they should deliver the message to the government."

¶4. (U) Authorities in the area arrested three suspects. One of the suspects, Martin Ocampos, is a member of the PPL-affiliated Campesino Organization of the North (OCN) (ref B). He reportedly admitted to authorities that he previously belonged to the PPL, but denied involvement in the April 18 assault on the police station.

¶5. (C) Comment: PPL militants were responsible for the February murder of a policeman in the Department of Concepcion (ref B), and the similar murder of a policeman in the Department of Canindeyu in August (ref E). In addition to the Debernardi kidnapping, they were responsible for the 2004 kidnapping and murder of former President Raul Cubas' daughter Cecilia (ref C). The PPL is a registered political party, but its military wing is a band of criminals that emulates the FARC and espouses the violent overthrow of the government. They are receiving financial support from Venezuela and other foreign governments and organizations. They are using the OCN as a front organization to solicit funds from foreign NGOs, including the Red Cross. The policeman who was shot during the April 18 assault served as an escort for prosecutors investigating the February murder, which may have been the motive for the assault. The PPL obviously intended for the assault to send a message to the government.
CASON